We claim:

| 1 | 1. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub |
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| 2 | 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, for use |
| 3 | in the manufacturing of commercial and military semiconductor |
| 4 | devices used in phased array radar, missile seeking devices, |
| 5 | direct broadcast satellite television receivers, wide band |
| 6 | wireless systems, global positioning satellite receivers and |
| 7 | cellular telephones, and other equipment said method comprising |
| 8 | the steps of: |
| 9 | providing for the use and development of horizontal |
| 10 | beams from a synchrotron or point source of x-ray beams; |
| 11 | preparing of submicrometer, transverse horizontal and |
| 12 | vertical stepper stages and frames; |
| 13 | providing a stepper base frame for the proper housing |
| 14 | and mating of the x-ray beam; |
| 15 | minimizing the effects of temperature and airflow |
| 16 | control by means of an environmental chamber; |
| 17 | transporting, handling and prealigning wafers and |
| 18 | other similar items for tight process control; |
| 19 | improving the control and sensing of positional |
| 20 | accuracy through the use of differential variable reluctance |
| 21 | transducers; |
| 22 | controlling the continuous gap and all six degrees of |
| 23 | freedom of the wafer being treated with a multiple variable stage |
| 24 | control; |
| 25 | incorporating alignment systems using unambiguous |
| 26 | targets to provide data to align one level to the next; |
| 27 | using beam transport, shaping or shaping devices to |
| 28 | include x-ray point sources; |

| 29 | using an infine collimator of concentrator for |
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| 30 | collimating or concentrating the x-ray beams; and |
| 31 | imaging the mask pattern at the precise moment for |
| 32 | optimum effectiveness. |
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| 1 | 2. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub |
| 2 | 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, |
| 3 | according to claim 1, wherein: |
| 4 | said using and developing of horizontal beams from a |
| 5 | synchrotron or point source of x-ray beams step comprises the use |
| 6 | of a beamline in parallel with the z axis. |
| | |
| 1 | 3. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub |
| 2 | 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, |
| 3 | according to claim 1, wherein: |
| 4 | said preparing of submicrometer, transverse |
| 5 | horizontal and vertical stepper stages and frames step comprises |
| 6 | providing a light weight, honeycomb structure; |
| 7 | said preparing of submicrometer, transverse |
| 8 | horizontal and vertical stepper stages and frames step further |
| 9 | comprises providing a air or gaseous bearing; |
| 10 | said preparing of submicrometer, transverse |
| 11 | horizontal and vertical stepper stages and frames step further |
| 12 | comprises providing vacuum clamping and mating surfaces; |
| 13 | said preparing of submicrometer, transverse |
| 14 | horizontal and vertical stepper stages and frames step further |
| 15 | comprises providing active weight compensation; |
| 16 | said preparing of submicrometer, transverse |
| 17 | horizontal and vertical stepper stages and frames step further |
| 18 | comprises linear actuators; and |
| 19 | said preparing of submicrometer, transverse |
| 20 | horizontal and vertical stepper stages and frames step further |

comprises a fine alignment flexure stage of transverse horizontal 21 and vertical nanometer stages. 22 4. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub 1 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, 2 3 according to claim 3, wherein: said providing a light weight, honeycomb structure step comprises the use of at least one composite material. 1 5. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub 2 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, 3 according to claim 1, wherein: 4 said providing a stepper base frame for the proper 5 housing and mating of the x-ray beam step comprises providing 6 beam alignment and vibration insulation techniques when 7 connecting the stationary x-ray synchrotron or point source. 6. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub 1 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, 2 according to claim 1, wherein: said minimizing the effects of temperature and airflow control by means of an environmental chamber step 5 comprises controlling the temperature and humidity; and 6 said minimizing the effects of temperature and 7 airflow control by means of an environmental chamber step further 8 comprises minimizing particle molecular contamination. 7. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, 2 according to claim 1, wherein: 3 said transporting handling and prealigning wafers and other similar items for tight process control step comprises 5

aligning and exposing, post baking and quality control processes.

using a cluster like environment in the coating, pre-baking,

| 1 | 8. A method of improving x -ray lithography in the sub |
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| 2 | 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, |
| 3 | according to claim 1, wherein: |
| 4 | said improving the control and sensing of positional |
| 5 | accuracy through the use of differential variable reluctance |
| 6 | transducers step comprises providing positional feedback of the |
| 7 | six degrees of freedom alignment stage. |
| | |
| 1 | 9. A method of improving x -ray lithography in the sub |
| 2 | 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, |
| 3 | according to claim 1, wherein; |
| 4 | said controlling the continuous gap and all six |
| 5 | degrees of freedom of the wafer being treated with a multiple |
| 6 | variable stage control step comprises using a device having a |
| 7 | cross coupled gantry design. |
| | |
| 1 | 10. A method of improving x-ray lithography in the sub |
| 2 | 100nm range to create high quality semiconductor devices, |
| 3 | according to claim 1, wherein: |
| 4 | said incorporating alignment systems using |
| 5 | unambiguous targets to provide data to align one level to the |
| 6 | next level step comprises using multiple bright field optical |
| 7 | microscopes in order to provide x , y and z , magnification and |
| 8 | rotational data; and |
| 9 | said incorporating alignment systems using |
| 10 | unambiguous targets to provide data to align one level to the |
| 11 | next level step further comprises using an additional imaging |
| 12 | broad band interferometer alignment system for providing precise |
| 4.2 | alignment of wafer levels and gap controls during x-ray exposure |

and imaging.

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